

IOWA

Colorectal Cancer Integration with the Breast and Cervical Early Detection Cancer Program (BCCEDP)

Public Health Problem

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer of men and women in the United States, and in Iowa it is the third leading cause of cancer death. In 2009, 146,970 new cases of colon and rectal cancer are expected to be diagnosed across the United States. The State Health Registry of Iowa estimates 1,820 new cases for 2009. Colorectal cancer is one of the most preventable cancers, since if polyps are found and removed, the cancer is prevented.

The BCCEDP and the Iowa Consortium for Comprehensive Cancer Control (ICCCC) partnered to study colorectal cancer screening behaviors of women enrolled in the BCCEDP.

Program Activity

The BCCEDP and the Iowa Consortium for Comprehensive Cancer Control (ICCCC) partnered to study colorectal cancer screening behaviors of women enrolled in the BCCEDP. Eleven counties were identified with higher than expected rates of late-stage colorectal cancer diagnosis. Pre- and post-questionnaires were mailed to BCCEDP-eligible women aged 50–64 years in these 11 counties.

During a 1-month period, women participating in the BCCEDP were surveyed about their knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors related to colorectal cancer. A packet of educational materials about colorectal cancer screening (including a map of free or low-cost colorectal cancer screenings) was sent several weeks after the original survey. A separate educational packet was sent to BCCEDP providers. A follow-up questionnaire was sent to track changes in BCCEDP participant's knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors related to colorectal cancer screening.

Program Findings

Costs of colorectal cancer screening and lack of insurance coverage were identified as the primary barriers to this sampled BCCEDP population.

Program Action

The BCCEDP and ICCCC shared their findings and recommendations for providing increased resources to entities providing services for colorectal cancer screening at little or no cost to the recipient with the Iowa Cancer Consortium (ICC) membership. These were also made available to all attendees at the Iowa Cancer Summit in 2009.

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